



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - February 13, 2003

- ***In the West***, widespread rain and snow showers are providing limited drought relief in the ***Great Basin*** and the ***Southwest***. Showers also continue in ***California***, where water supplies and high-elevation snow packs are closer to normal than anywhere else in the ***West***.
- ***On the Plains***, mild weather (today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 55 to 70 degrees F) accompanies isolated rain showers across the ***southern half of the region***. Mild weather also prevails on the ***northern and central High Plains***, favoring the dormant winter wheat crop despite only a patchy, shallow protective snow cover and underlying long-term drought.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, bitterly cold weather is confined to ***northern portions of the Great Lakes region***, where this morning's minimum temperatures ranged from 0 to -20 degrees F. In contrast, mild air is overspreading the ***southern and western Corn Belt***.
- ***In the South***, showers are scattered across ***southern Texas*** in advance of a developing storm system. Elsewhere in the ***South***, cool, dry weather favors late-winter fieldwork.

Outlook: A complex low-pressure system will bring a large area of precipitation to much of the ***western U.S.*** today, with locally heavy rain and mountain snows in the ***Southwest***. For the remainder of the week, a developing storm in the ***southern Rockies*** will trigger locally heavy rain from the ***central and southern Plains*** eastward into the ***Tennessee and Ohio Valleys***. Moisture will reach the ***Mid-Atlantic States*** as a mixture of snow and rain by the weekend, while rain will change to snow across portions of the ***central Plains and Ohio Valley***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 18-22 calls for wetter-than-normal conditions in the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Great Basin, and northern Rockies***, and below-normal precipitation on the ***central and southern Plains***. Warmer-than-normal weather is predicted for much of the ***Plains, Midwest, and Southeast***, while below-normal temperatures are likely in the ***Northwest***.

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